quite common in Hawaii. I picked it up there and sent it on to Pic Thompson labelled "Double Yellow", as I could not find a name for it in Hawaii. Pic read my handwriting as "Double Hilo", for, with my usual disregard for clarity, I had written "Dbl. Yelo" on the label! He read it as "Double Hilo" and that's the way it is on the list.

But back to "Hale. Blue":

It has been my custom for many years to spend some weeks in Hawaii each year, usually stopping with my family at the Halekulani Hotel. One of the features of this hotel is an hibiscus garden, which includes many of the older varieties. Each day, one of the staff gathers a large number of blooms, and two or three dozen of these are displayed on a huge board back of the registration desk.

About ten years ago I noticed a lavender flower on the display, and as the coloring and markings were somewhat like the althea, but larger, I asked George Shimoda (for whom I named Shimoda Yellow), Halekulani head gardener, where the plant was located, remarking that it was a very nice althea. He told me where to find the plant, but said that it was a Rosa-Sinesis, not an althea. He was right; I found a tree 15 feet tall, covered with blooms, a handsome specimen. I took cuttings, and in due course sent some to Pic Thompson, marked "Hale. Blue" without explaning what the "Hale." stood for. That's the origin of name. It is, as you know, a four to five inch flower, closer

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FOR HIBISCUS

Winterize them with (0-14-14) HARDIGREEN
Promotes firm wood.
Stimulate Blooming with BLOOMASTER (2-12-12)
REE GREEN (Iron) for spraying & soil application.
FTE (Fritted Trace Elements)
FERTIMINEL (Minor Elements)
MOLYBDENUM to correct strapleaf
Special Hibiscus insect & fungus sprays

to blue than lavender as a morning bloom. The petals show traces of pink veining as they go into a light magenta center zone. The plant is a slow grower with me, which is surprising, considering its size at the Halekulani, the leaves are small, the smallest of any Rosa-Sinensis that I know.

Because of the distinctive nature of this variety, I became interested in using it in my crossing. but found that it downgraded most crosses. In fact, I do not recall of ever getting an exceptional seedling from it, with the exception of my "Reina", which made a brief appearance in Florida a couple of years ago, but, as I understand it, has since been lost. My own plant of Reina was attacked by virus, so I do not send out any more wood. However, I selfed "Hale. Blue", and it came true; this is not complete proof that it is a true species, but is an indication that it may be.

After a couple of seasons, I lost my only plant of "Hale. Blue", and decided to pick up more wood in Honolulu on my next trip (1955). However, I found that the original tree had been destroyed to make way for more bungalows. It was not available at any local nurseries, so I again consulted the oracle, George Shimoda, who, if he does not know the answers on hibiscus offhand, sooner or later comes up with the right one. This time he didn't have answers, but three

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